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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 2 which begins on line 21 with the following:

The invention is described in terms of the preferred embodiment wherein the product desired for purchase by the customer falls within a restricted product category if it includes such items as medical equipment, such as computer tomography (CT) scanners, magnetic resonance (MR) imagers, ultrasounds and the like, or product information relating to medical equipment, or service information pertaining to medical equipment and/or services. Such restrictions are typically required by a governmental agency, such as the Food and Drug Administration in the United States. A non-restricted or unrestricted product category includes those products that can be purchased by a general group of purchasers. The system 10 therefore delineates between restricted and non-restricted products. To purchase a restricted product, the customer must be authorized, or otherwise pre-approved for such purchases. It should be apparent then that this system can be applicable to screening other types of restricted products or sales/delivery to restricted locations, and that the restricted products described herein are exemplary only. Therefore, this system would be useful for selling practically any products requiring buyer identification, other than for simple credit approval, prior to approving the sale. The restricted locations are restricted based on such factors as trade regulations as specified by various government entities.

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Please replace paragraph 9 which begins on line 25 with the following:

Once a valid customer registration form has been submitted 40, the system then proceeds to check whether the customer is qualified to purchase the product or service over the network. This is accomplished by checking whether the customer is a licensed health care provider 42, as such providers are authorized to purchase restricted medical products. If the customer does not fall within the licensed health care provider group 43, which as previously noted may include entities that employ licensed health care providers, the system automatically checks to determine whether the customer is a third party reseller or distributor 44 of medical products. If not 45, the customer will only be permitted to purchase non-medical products 46 in the transaction, or, more generally, products from the unrestricted product category. If the customer does qualify as a third party reseller 44, 47, the system checks to determine whether the customer is a distributor who has been specifically authorized by the seller 48 to purchase medical products. If not 49, the system will deny any sale to the potential customer and an email indicating the denial will be sent to the customer 50, alternatively, a direct customer contract or interaction may be made. These checks ensure that medical products are purchased for use by only those who are authorized. Further, they function to ensure that sensitive pricing and/or product information may only be accessed by such authorized customers.

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